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Title: Need to cover HIV patients by Medical insurance by the Government.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (THENI): Thank you, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of the Government about the need of the hour to cover HIV patients by medical insurance from the Central Government's side. The HIV positive people are currently not provided insurance. This amounts to violation of the national mandate to providing stigma-free care and support services to the HIV positive.

Medical studies have revealed that timely initiation of anti-retroviral therapy can prolong their lives up to 20 years. In fact, India has the third largest number of people living with HIV. In my parliamentary constituency, Theni, downhill of Kodaikanal, Bodi Mettu and Kambam Mettu and other adjoining hill stations the presence of HIV positive patients registered in the local bodies is very large. Some NGOs with the help of the Central Government are helping them but not satisfactorily.

Therefore, I would request the Government to provide adequate medical treatment including medical insurance to the HIV patients, their children and families in my constituency.